

Home Is Where the Heart Is

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Magna - Utah Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) believes in the philosophy that those with disabilities should have the opportunity to lead self determined lives whenever possible. An inspiring, yet subtle example of self-determination is captured in the life of Russell Hastings.



Hastings has been receiving DSPD services for the past seven years, during which time; he has remained fairly independent. Hastings has been employed at Hires Restaurant for three years and is known for being a real asset with his co-workers. Not only has this provided him with the income he needs to meet obligations such as paying bills, it also affords him the opportunity to enjoy activities such as dating, participating in Special Olympics and attending other events that enhance his social life.

Hastings also lives at home with his parents and younger brother in a historic house that has been in the family for generations. His mother, Jean states, "Russell's ability to bring those around him together and focus on the goal at hand is quiet, but effective." Hastings enjoys telling stories of the gatherings, such as how the neighborhood comes to celebrate holidays, at their home.

DSPD has collaborated with community agencies linking Hastings and his family with grants to provide upgrades to flooring and doors to maintain a healthy and safe environment. Hastings beams with pride for his accomplishments and clearly for him home **IS** where his heart is.